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NEWS AND COMMENTS

Plans are well under way for the annual meeting of the Mississippi valley historical association which is to be held next spring at St. Paul. As chairman of the program committee Mr. Sioussat has appointed Mr. C. S. Boucher of Washington university, St. Louis; the other members are Mr. John D. Hicks of Hamlin university, St. Paul; Mr. R. M. Tryon, chairman of the teachers' section, of Chicago; Mr. Walter L. Fleming of Vanderbilt university, Nashville; and Mr. William J. Trimble of Fargo, North Dakota. The Minnesota historical society is to be the host of the association, and its superintendent, Mr. Solon J. Buck, is chairman of the committee on local arrangements.

The fourteenth conference of historical societies will be held on December 29, 1917, in connection with the meeting of the American historical association, December 29, 1917, at the Historical society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. The hereditary patriotic societies, which last year held a separate conference, have been asked to join in this conference in the discussion of the topic "The relation of the hereditary patriotic societies and the historical societies, with especial reference to coöperation in publication." It is hoped that some means will be arrived at to "prevent the really frightful duplication of labor and printing," which at present characterizes the work of these two varieties of organizations. It is further planned to organize a national conference with independent finances and officers. It is also expected that as a result of the conferences there will be published in 1918 a *Handbook of historical societies* including the significant facts regarding all societies known in United States and Canada, which is now being prepared by the secretary of the conference, Mr. Augustus H. Shearer of the Grosvenor library, Buffalo, New York.

A new state historical agency has come into being with the organization of the Georgia historical association, which held its first annual meeting at Atlanta April 10, 1917. Heretofore the only organization for historical purposes in Georgia has been the Georgia historical society, which has an honorable record of seventy-five years. It has, however confined its interests to the colonial and revolutionary period, and its clientele has always been rather narrow. The originators of the new association feel that there is a distinct need for an organization which shall be state wide

in character and which "shall have as its special interest the history of the Piedmont region in its economic, social and political aspects — which shall have as its field nineteenth century history rather than the study of origins and revolutionary history." The association plans particularly to concern itself with the preservation of records and with the making available for the use of students the materials in the state archives. For the present at least no publication will be attempted except the *Proceedings* of the annual meetings, the first number of which has recently appeared. The officers of the new organization are: president, Mr. L. L. Knight, state compiler of records, Atlanta; vice-president, Mr. T. H. Jack, Emory university, Oxford; secretary-treasurer, Mr. R. P. Brooks, university of Georgia, Athens.

Another evidence of the increasing appreciation of the state as a unit for historical activity is the appearance of the *Michigan history magazine*, published by the Michigan historical commission at Lansing. The new periodical is pleasing in form and the contents of its first two numbers give promise that it will prove a useful medium for the publication of material on state history and for the encouragement of county historical agencies. The July, 1917, issue includes: "A sketch of the life of Isaac Marston," by William L. Clements; "The field for the historian in the upper peninsula," by F. X. Barth; "The spirit of the times," by Woodbridge N. Ferris; "The first bank in Michigan," by William L. Jenks; and "Centenary of the settlement of Oakland county," by Mrs. Lillian D. Avery. The October number prints a number of civil war letters, a memorial on Will Carleton, reminiscences of William Hadley Brockway, and a descriptive list of Governor Blair's papers. In addition there are two articles on Holland immigration to Michigan, written respectively by Mr. Gerrit Van Schleven and Mr. Garrit Diekema; a discussion of "Teaching Michigan history in the public schools," by Alvin N. Cody; "History of St. Mary's parish, Marshall, Michigan," by James Cahalan; and "Government survey and charting of the great lakes," by John Fitzgibbon.

The California historical survey commission which was appointed by the legislature in 1915 to make a survey of local historical material in the state has made a preliminary report, in which it outlines its purpose and method of work, and gives a classification of the kinds of material with which it has to deal. Next comes an historical analysis of the archives of the county clerk, and then two specimen archive reports. The commission is to be commended for the scholarly way in which it has set about its work, and still more is the state to be commended for hav-

ing had the foresight to inaugurate such an enterprise as the commission represents.

The sixtieth anniversary year book of the Chicago historical society which appeared some time ago shows in its 242 pages a very creditable record of the society's activities during 1916.

The Geographic society of Chicago has issued a bulletin on *Stony island* (University of Chicago press. 16 p.) in which the author gives a brief description of the vegetation, geology, and physiography of this unique island, and makes a plea for its conservation as "a pocket edition of the greater part of the history of the continent."

A collection of the essays which during the past ten years have been awarded the George W. Bagley prize by Hampden Sidney college, Virginia, has been published under the title *Studies of the old south*. The essays, all of which were written by undergraduates, deal with conditions in the ante bellum south.

"A federalist of the old school," in the *North Carolina booklet* of July, 1917, is an extremely interesting monograph by Mr. Archibald Henderson of the university of North Carolina. The subject is the former great lawyer of the same name, Archibald Henderson, who was called by Judge Murphey "The most perfect model of a lawyer that our bar has produced." The booklet also contains two other studies of value to local historians: "Our North Carolina Indians," by Fred A. Olds, and "The state navy of North Carolina in the war of the revolution," by Marshall D. Haywood.

A publication in a practically virgin field is Mr. Frank C. Pierce's *Brief history of the lower Rio Grande valley* (Menasha, Wisconsin: George Banta publishing company, 1917. 200 p.). The book places its emphasis on military operations and exploits in the region defined.

Robert E. Lee, by Bradley Gilman, is one of the series of biographies known as *True stories of great Americans* (New York: The Macmillan company, 1915. 205 p. \$.50). Although another life of Lee might seem superfluous, this has a distinct place in the high school library and in juvenile literature. Through its simple narrative, free as it is from sectional feeling and prejudice, a great number of young persons will doubtless come to know and to appreciate the high character and notable attainments of this interesting American.

North America during the eighteenth century, by T. Crockett and B. C. Wallis (Cambridge, the University press, 1915. vi, 116 p.), rep-

resents an effort to set forth in an elementary text a geographical view of the "story of the rise of the United States to nationhood."

Mr. John T. Faris, in preparing *Real stories from our history* (Boston: Ginn and company, [1916]. xi, 308 p.), constantly kept in mind the report to the National education association of the committee on the study of history in the elementary schools, particularly its dictum that "Our history teaching in the past has failed largely because it has not been picturesque enough." He has selected typical events in American history which are aimed to arouse the imagination of the school child, making them unusually vivid by numerous quotations from original documents. The text is generously supplemented by illustrations, which for the most part are extremely well chosen.

Mr. William C. Mills has made a new and significant contribution to the archaeology of Ohio by his exploration of the Feurt mounds and village site, located in the Scioto valley about five miles north of Portsmouth. A full and careful account of his findings, illustrated with numerous photographs, is published in the *Ohio archaeological and historical quarterly* for July, 1917.

Three articles appear in the *Indiana magazine of history* for September: "The origin and development of the republican party in Indiana," by Charles Zimmerman; "The underground railroad in Monroe county," by Henry L. Smith; and "The pioneer aristocracy," by Logan Esarey. The last mentioned paper was read by Mr. Esarey at the meeting of the Mississippi valley historical association in Chicago in April.

The *Missouri historical review* for October, 1917, contains a translation of Gottfried Duden's "Report," 1824-1827, by William G. Bek; "Missouri and the war," by Floyd C. Shoemaker; and the second of the series "Missourians abroad," by Ivan H. Epperson, this article treating of Mr. G. W. P. Hunt.

The August, 1917, issue of the *Minnesota history bulletin* prints a study by Sidney A. Patchin entitled "The development of banking in Minnesota," which was submitted as a master's thesis in the graduate school of the university of Minnesota. The bulletin also contains two suggestive notes: one on historical activities in war time, by Solon J. Buck; the other on the preservation of newspapers, by John Talman.

Some little time ago the Toronto public library issued a seventy-five page pamphlet, compiled by Miss Edith M. Staton, head of the reference department of the library, entitled *Books and pamphlets published in Canada up to the year eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, copies of*

which are in the public reference library, Toronto, Canada. As the Toronto public library, through the enterprise of the present chief librarian, Mr. George H. Locke, and his predecessor the late Mr. James Bain, contains a really notable collection of early Canadiana, this list will be of exceptional interest and value to historical and other students, particularly as Miss Staton's work as compiler has been exceptionally well done.

Mr. Walter L. Fleming, formerly head of the department of history at Louisiana state university, is now occupying a similar position at Vanderbilt university. In consequence of his removal from Louisiana Mr. Milledge L. Bonham, Jr., professor of history and political science, is devoting his entire time to history this year.